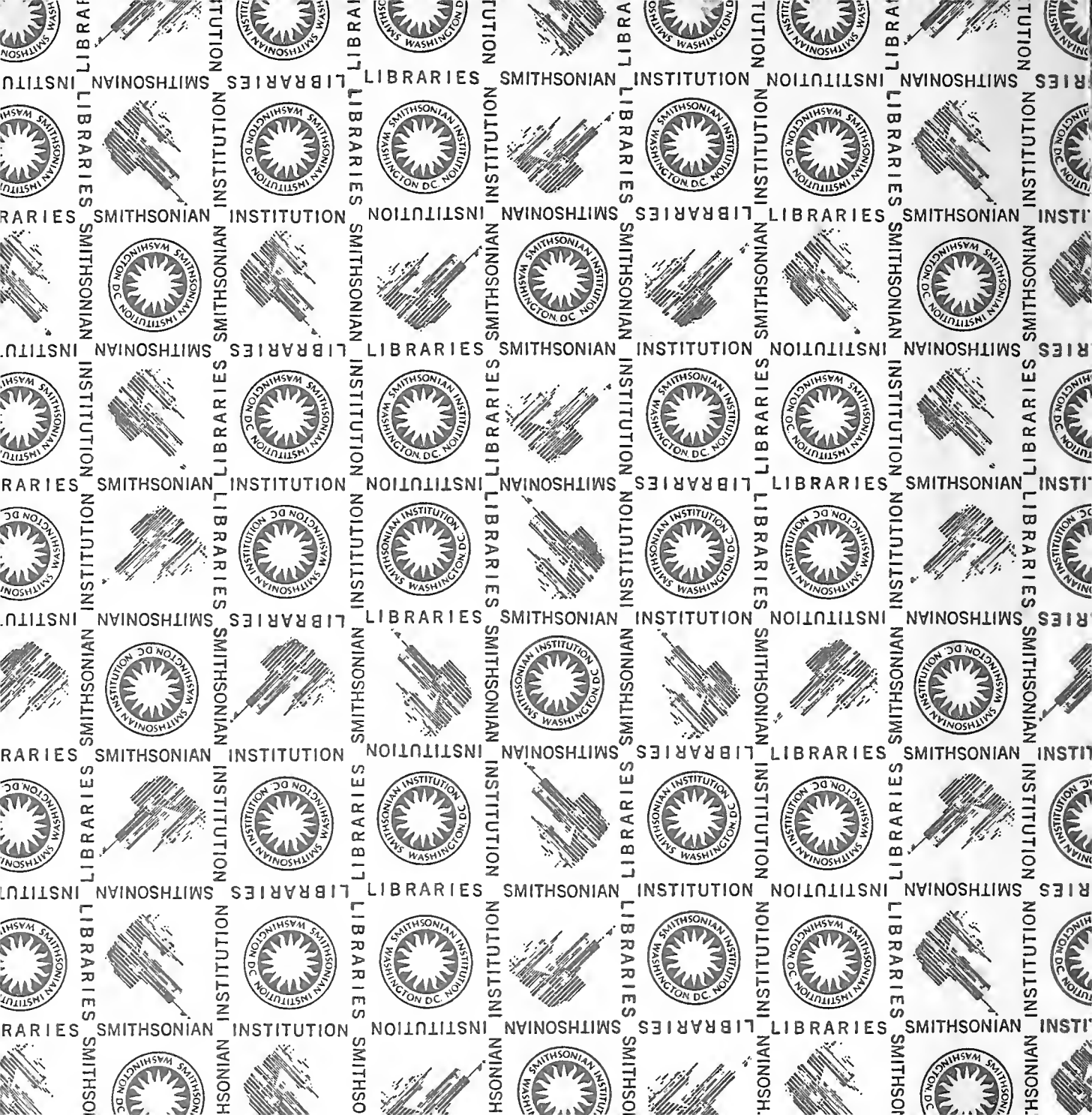
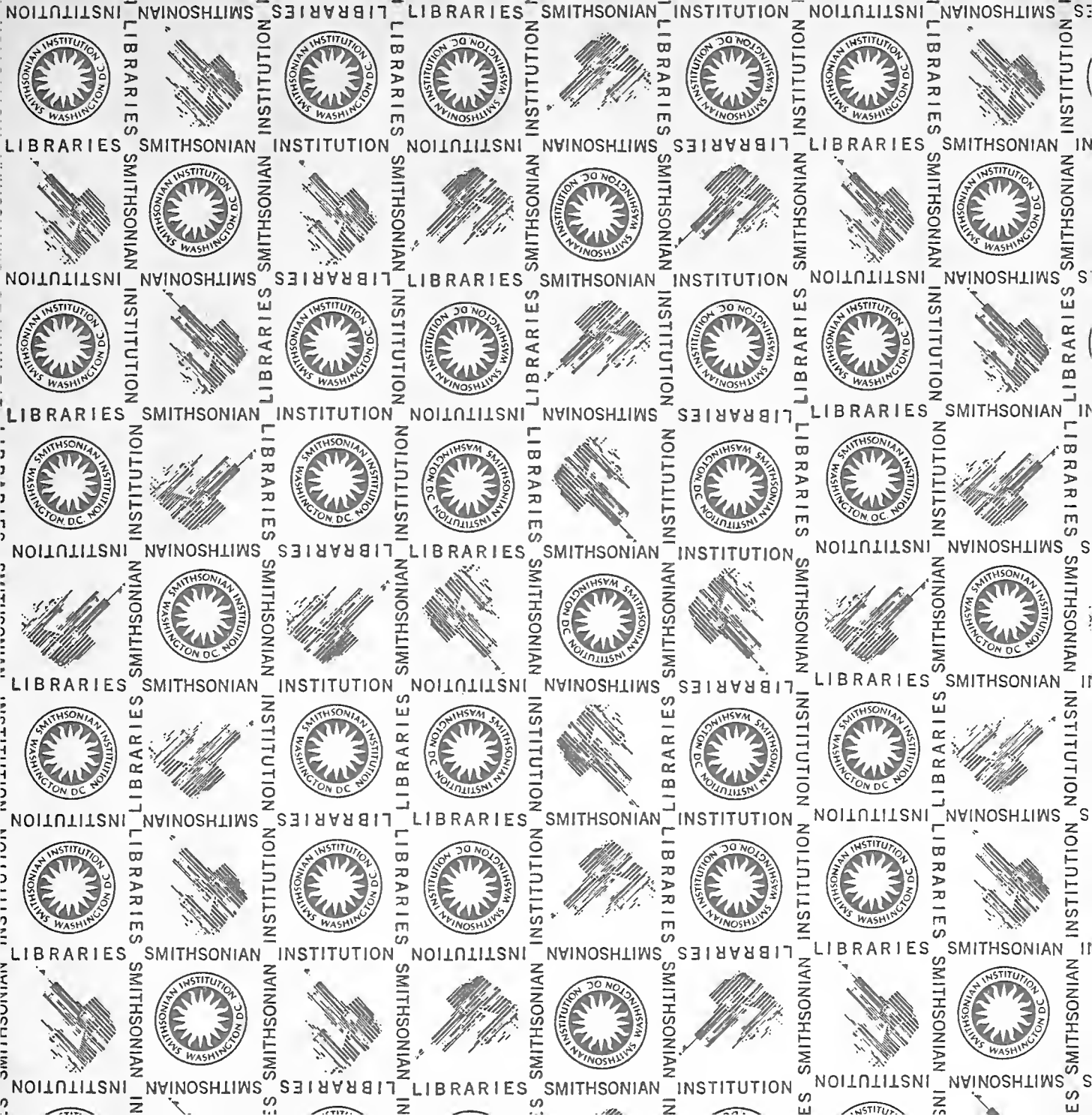


COOPER-HEWITT MUSEUM

BUTTONS

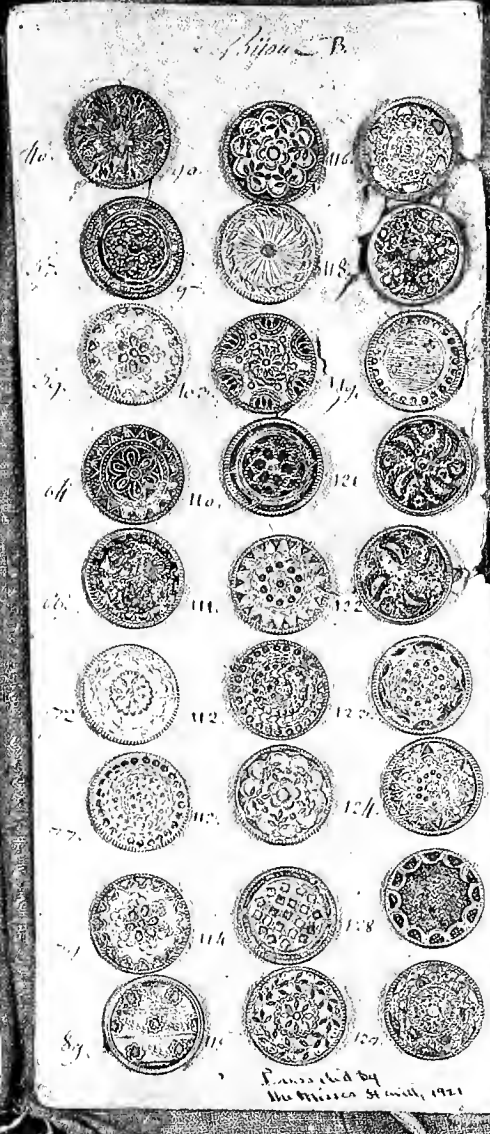
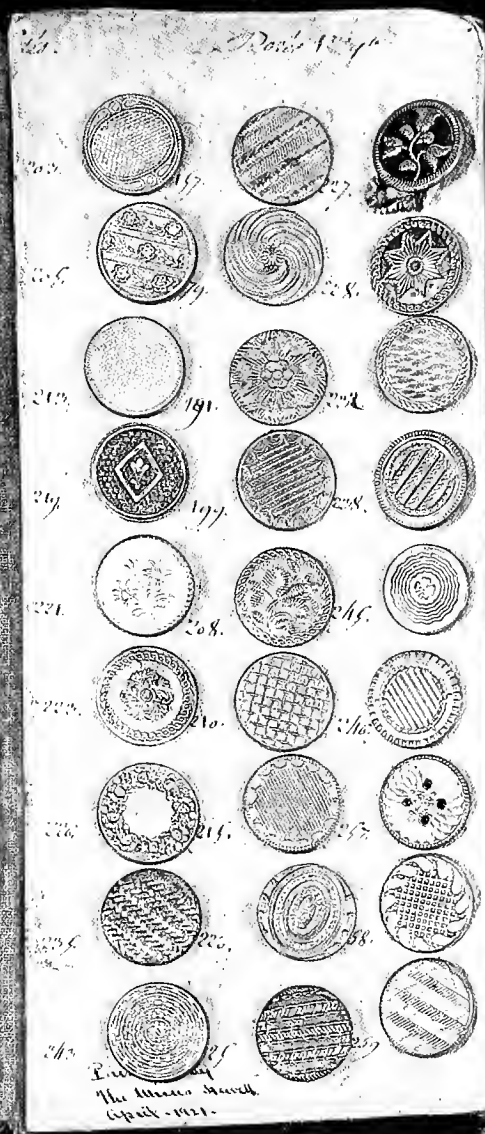
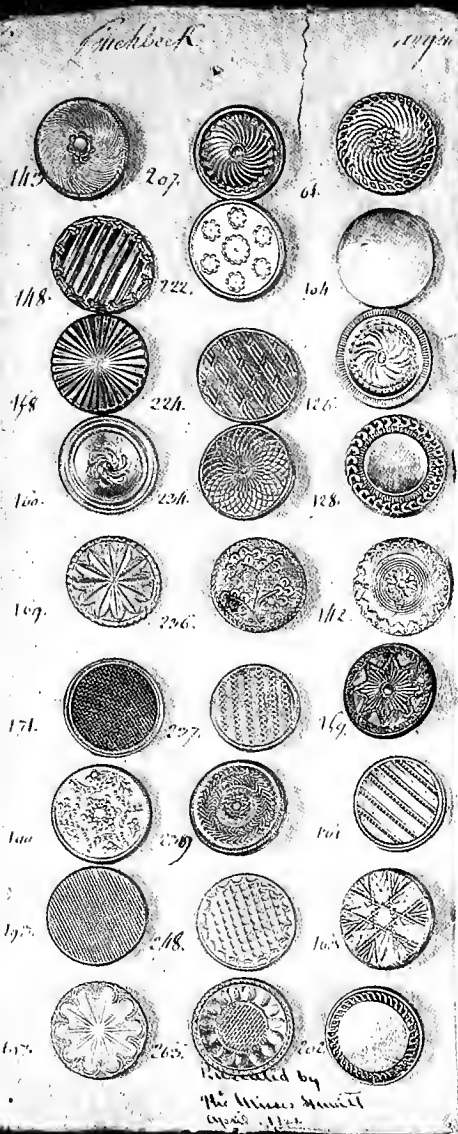
SMITHSONIAN
LIBRARIES





Buttons

in the Collection of the
Cooper-Hewitt Museum

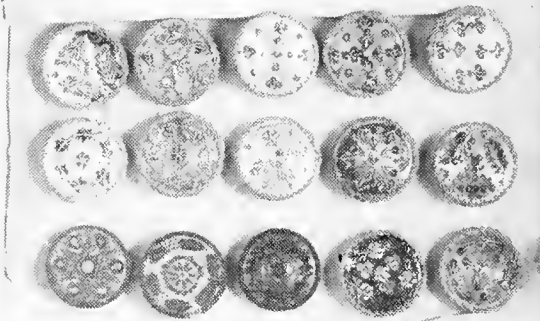




Inside front cover
 Sales Book of Sample Buttons
 France, late 18th century
 Metal foil, thread, and paillettes
 41 cm. (height)
 Gift of Eleanor and Sarah Hewitt

Cover
 Sales Book of Sample Buttons
 France, late 18th century
 Metal foil, thread, and paillettes
 32 cm. (height)
 Gift of Eleanor and Sarah Hewitt

Diameter is given, unless otherwise specified. Roman numerals refer to donors; see page 31.



*Design: Gottschalk + Ash
 International
 Typesetting: by Concept
 Typographers
 Printing: Faculty Press
 Photographs: Terry Ferrante
 © 1982 by The Smithsonian
 Institution
 All rights reserved
 Library of Congress Catalog No.
 82-072123*

NK
3670
C77
C.2
CHM

Buttons

in the Collection of
the Cooper-Hewitt
Museum

The Smithsonian
Institution's
National Museum of
Design

Foreword

Petit Courrier des Dames:
Modes de Paris, Paris,
April 30, 1835
Detail plate 54: "Modes de
Long-champs"
Gift of Vvryan Holland
1980-36-5286

The little object of ornament and utility called the button is not so trivial as the scant literature about its history would suggest. At the present time, there is a new wave of enthusiasm for button collecting, stimulated no doubt by the low cost and modest space-requirements of buttons, as well as by the variety and quality of their design. Button collectors have available to them an astonishing array of materials, techniques, and designs that offer a miniature-sized glimpse into the history of decoration, as well as a view of the social and economic history of fashion.

The Cooper-Hewitt's button collection was featured in an exhibition entitled *Four Thousand and One Buttons* organized by Carl C. Dauterman at the Cooper Union Museum in 1940. To accompany the exhibition, Mr. Dauterman contributed an article on the history of buttons for the *Museum Chronicle* of that year. He has graciously consented to have this article reprinted, adding to his original text new information and materials that have become a part of this collection since then.

We are pleased that the appearance of this handbook on our delightful collection of buttons coincides with the showing of the exhibition *Button, Button*, which has been funded by the New York State Council on the Arts. The publication of this handbook was made possible through the generosity of the Wellington Foundation, Inc., and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. We are deeply grateful for their kind support.

Lisa Taylor
Director



Buttons

France, late 18th-early 19th century
Painted miniature, glass, metal, 3.8 cm., III



What is the earliest known button? The answer depends entirely upon the kind of button that is meant, for many things have been called buttons that have nothing at all to do with holding articles of clothing together. The buttons that the Egyptians are said to have worn as early as the Sixth Dynasty were actually badges worn suspended singly from a string about the neck. Buttons of glass and gold leaf have been found among the Mycenaean ruins of 1500 B.C. Many of us are familiar with the buttons that appear on the bridles of horses in Assyrian sculpture, and the Schliemann site at Mycenae yielded buttons of gold. Nevertheless, for documenting the use of buttons attached to costumes we have no conclusive evidence among the remains of any of the early Mediterranean cultures.

Some of the first records of true buttons on European costume exist in the architectural sculpture and the literature of the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. Among the sculpted figures on Chartres Cathedral may be seen women wearing a row of small closely spaced buttons on each sleeve. That the fashion was shared by men is documented in lines from one of the medieval manuscripts assembled by Sir Robert Bruce Cotton:

*"Botones azured
wore ilke ane
From his elboth to
his hand."*

The Milliner & Dressmaker
and Warehouseman's Gazette,
Paris, May 1877
Detail plate 1406: "Bridal Toilets"
Gift of Vyryan Holland
1980-36-4008



Buttons

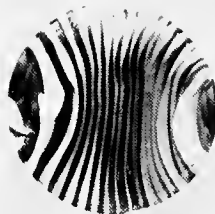
Milville, New Jersey, 1942. Made by Winfield Rutter. Glass, 1.2 cm.; 1.7 cm., XVI



The fashioning of gold and silver buttons was for several centuries most often restricted to the workshops of jewelers, because pearls, sapphires, and other precious stones were used in their embellishment. In the middle of the thirteenth century, a corporation of button-makers was formed in France to supply the growing market. Gradually craftsmen appeared who made buttons of more ordinary materials; in the fourteenth century, ivory, bone, and horn were fashioned into buttons by bead-makers. Sheet metal and wire, especially brass and copper, were also used at this time. These early costume buttons were essentially ornamental; the prosaic task of fastening one's clothing was still left to pins, buckles, and girdles.

As time went by, the demand for buttons grew. While in the fourteenth century a woman's cloak might have fifty

*United States, 19th century
Glass, brass, 3.5 cm., I*



buttons, and a man's doublet nearly eighty, in the sixteenth century 13,600 gold buttons were used on a single costume belonging to the king of France, François I. With buttons so prized by royalty, a demand for them among the lesser folk was a natural development. It is not surprising that during the sixteenth century buttons were adopted by the common people as objects of utility and fashion.

Without question the great period in the history of button design was the eighteenth century. Jeweled buttons in particular became increasingly ingenious in design, as evidenced by the diamond buttons worn by the Comte d'Artois, Philippe d'Orleans, Regent of France, each of which encased a miniature watch. More usual were buttons of other cut stones and of mother-of-pearl encrusted with silver and gold. By the middle of the century, the English had brought the manufacture of buttons of cut steel to a high development. These always rank among the most interesting of buttons from the standpoint of

Buttons

*Haiti, about 1775. Painted by Agostino
Brunias, canvas, oil paint, glass, metal
3.7 cm., XV*

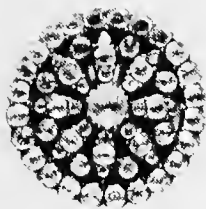


tons. The wording of the Act of Parliament proclaimed that the “maintenance and subsistence of many thousands of men, women and children” were dependent upon this protection.

Other specialized types of buttons grew up during the eighteenth century; one of the most interesting is the “picture” button. Many such buttons carry small scenes painted on metal or ivory, fitted with domed glass covers to protect the fragile painted surfaces. Among the classes of ornamentation for such buttons were subjects after the antique, historical scenes, and portraits.

Jean-Baptiste Isabey (1767-1855) is known to have painted buttons during his youth, copying tableaux of lovers, flowers, and landscapes derived from Boucher and Van Loo. Similarly, figures after Watteau and Greuze were applied to buttons in paint and in enamel. In the Cooper-Hewitt collection is a particularly distinguished group of buttons painted with scenes of everyday life in Haiti.

craftsmanship as each of the faceted bits of steel with which they are studded — on some it may be a hundred or more — was separately cut and polished before being riveted to a disc of metal. In the last quarter of the century cut steel buttons enjoyed great popularity in France and became an important article of commerce. Buttons have even contributed their special importance to the field of legislation; during the reign of the English King William III, a law of 1698 was recorded as “An Act to Prevent the Making or Selling of Buttons made of Cloth, Serge, Drugget, or other Stuffs,” in an effort to protect the makers who relied upon the fabrication of silk, mohair, gimp, and thread but-



*Probably England, late 18th-early 19th
century. Paste jewels, metal, 3.3 cm., III*

Buttons

*Europe, early 19th century, Ivory, metal
glass, 3.7 cm., III*



True miniatures, they were the work of the Italo-English artist Agostino Brunias (active 1763-79) and are traditionally believed to have been owned by the colorful Toussaint l'Ouverture, Governor of Haiti from 1801 until 1802.

In the late eighteenth century architectural subjects became popular, and collectors were able to form "galleries" of button pictures of the monuments of Paris. Another variety of painted buttons was the balloon button, reflecting the interest in balloon ascensions aroused by the Montgolfier brothers. Revolutionary themes and symbols replaced these subjects in France during the closing years of the century. Makers of these functional ornaments during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries showed great inventiveness in the variety of materials they employed. Some excellent work was

done in porcelain decorated with delicate figures and flowers, sometimes with the surface modeled to represent woven material. Wedgwood and his contemporaries supplied blue-and-white stoneware buttons with portraits, trophies, and antique subjects in very low relief. Little shells, insects, and mosses were arranged under glass into compositions resembling miniature habitat groups, and in the same way small butterflies and birds were fashioned of brightly colored feathers. Metal buttons were made for both civil and military wear. Chiefly used were silver, copper, and alloys such as pewter, bell-metal, pinchbeck, bronze, and brass. Plating of

Natural Substances



2



3



1



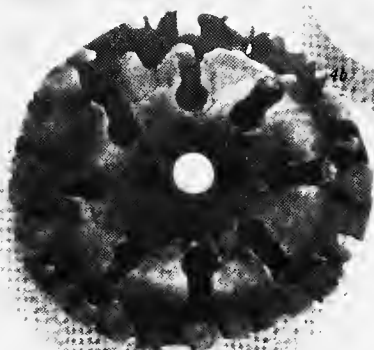
5



4a



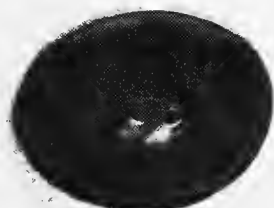
4b



6



7



8

1. Probably China or Japan, late 19th century. Ivory, 4.3 cm., III

2. "Habitat" button: Europe or United States, late 19th-early 20th century. Glass, shells, seaweed metal, 3.6 cm., V

3. France, late 19th century. Antler, 3 cm., IX

4a, b. Japan, late 19th century. Ivory, shell, 3 cm., XI, III

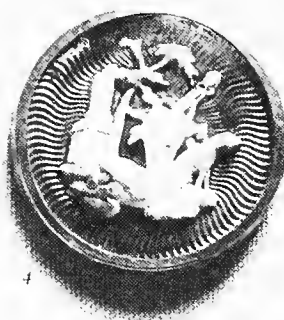
5. Europe, mid-19th century. Wood, 1.2 cm., I

6. Probably France, late 19th century. Antler, 5 cm., I

7. Probably Europe, late 19th century. Tortoiseshell, inlaid silver wire 3.5 cm., III

8. Probably United States, 20th century. Elk horn, 2.8 x 3.6 cm., X

Metal



1. France, 19th century
Metallic foils, copper, brass, glass
3.7 cm., I

2a, b. Japan, late 19th century
Shakudo, copper, gold, silver
3.3 cm., III

3. France, late 18th century
Brass, 3.4 cm., I

4. France, late 18th-early 19th century.
Copper, plaster, glass, 4 cm., I

5. United States, late 19th-early
20th century. Brass, 3.8 cm., III

6. Europe or United States, late
19th-early 20th century
Brass, 3.8 cm., V

7. France, about 1880. Made by
A. P. & Cie., Paris, Brass, wood
4.4 cm., I

8. Italy, 19th century
Brass, copper, tin, 4.5 cm., I

9. United States, late 19th century
Made by John Patterson & Co.,
New York. Brass, 2.6 cm., IX

10. France, late 19th century
Gilded brass, 2.4 cm., I

11. France, late 19th century
Made by Auguste Dusautoy, Paris
Gilded brass, 3 cm., I

12. France, late 19th century
Brass, steel, 1.4 cm., I

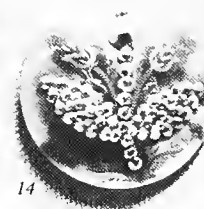
13. Europe, late 19th century
Metal, glass, 4.8 cm., III

14. England, 19th century
Brass and steel, 2.2 cm., I

15. Europe or United States, late
19th-early 20th century, Brass, 3.1
cm., III

16. Possibly Scandinavian, 19th
century. Silver, silver filigree
4.8 cm., XIX

17. France, late 19th century
Cut steel, brass, 2.7 cm., I



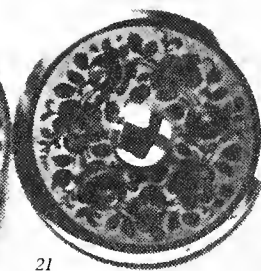
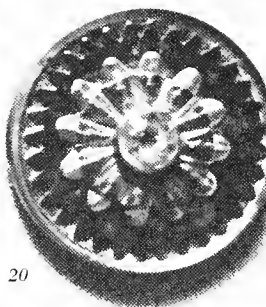
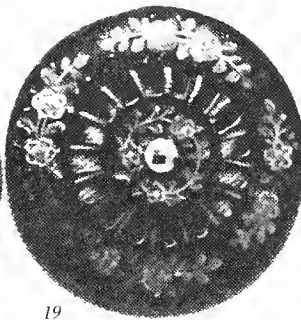
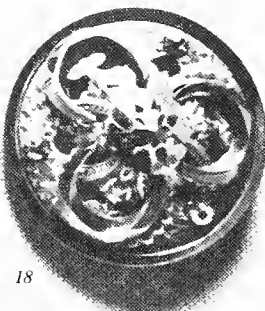
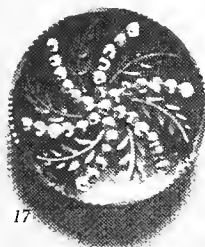
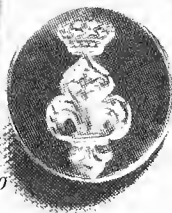
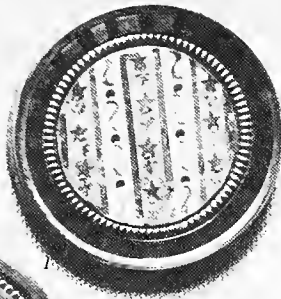
18. France, about 1890
Nickel, 3.8 cm., XII

19. France, 19th century. Steel
iridescent, 4.4 cm., I

20. France, 19th century. Steel
brass, copper, tin, 3.8 cm., I

21. France, 1800-1850. Steel
gilded, 3.8 cm., I





Buttons

base metals with silver and gold was common. When the nature of the metal made it practicable, buttons were cast in one piece with the shank; otherwise, loops of durable wire were soldered to the backs to increase the length of wear. Frequently a tooled or stamped metal foil was applied over a core or mold of wood, bone, or ivory. Buttons made in this way were colorful when decorated with spangles or embroidered designs in metal thread.

United States or Europe, late 19th-early 20th century. Brass, 3.9 cm., V



United States, late 19th-early 20th century. Made by Waterbury Button Co., Waterbury, Connecticut. Brass, gilded, 2.2 cm., III



In America, the colonists were chiefly supplied with buttons by England. Colonial American button-makers entered the scene in 1706, when a manufactory was established in New England. In Philadelphia, Casper Wistar made brass buttons and buckles before 1750; shortly afterward, Henry Witeman, another Philadelphian, began the manufacture of metal buttons near the Fly Market in New York. Joseph Hopkins, in Waterbury, Connecticut, made sterling silver and silver-covered buttons in 1753. Benjamin Randolph, the master cabinet-maker of Philadelphia, announced in an advertisement dated 1770 that he was making buttons “of apple, holly, and laurel wood hard and clear.” In 1774, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts recommended the use of domestic papier-mâché buttons to reduce the imports from the mother country. Very soon after the Revolution, however, “buttons, buckles, and other trinkets” were

Buttons

being imported annually into this country to the value of \$60,000. At that time silk buttons were being made by household manufacture, especially in Connecticut. The familiar name of Baron von Steuben figures in button history through his invention, in 1789, of a button of conch shell to be worn with costumes of pepper-and-salt colors. In those years people made horn and pewter buttons at home, sometimes using the molds which itinerant peddlers carried as part of their stock-in-trade. Gradually button making became an occupation for group employment. In Waterbury in 1790 the brothers Samuel, Henry, and Silas Grilley opened a shop for the manufacture



Europe, 19th century. Shell, engraved, paint, 5.1 cm., III



*France, late 18th century-early 19th century
Steel, shell, 3.8 cm., I*

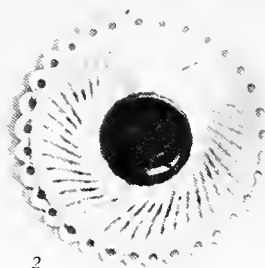


of pewter costume buttons. At the same time groups of Shakers were turning out jacket, coat, and sleeve buttons in polished brass, pewter, and horn covered with cloth. In Philadelphia there were two button factories in 1797; by the following year metal buttons were being made in large quantities in Massachusetts, particularly in the counties of Plymouth and Bristol.

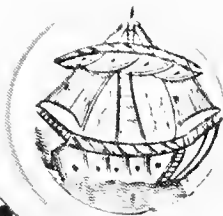
In the middle of the nineteenth century about twenty thousand people were employed in making buttons in France. There was an especially great demand for porcelain buttons, the manufacture of which flourished at Montereau and Briare, respectively within fifty and one hundred miles of the capital. Paris was the center for covered buttons and those of metal, enamel, shell, bone, and horn.



1



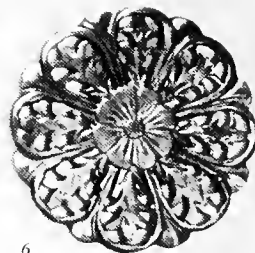
2



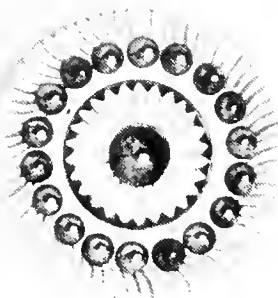
5



8



6



13



9a



9b

1. France, 19th century
Shell, paste jewel, copper
3.8 cm., I

2. France, 19th century. Shell
brass, 3.5 cm., I

3. Europe, 19th century. Shell, paste
jewel, metallic thread, 3.7 cm., I

4. France, 19th century. Shell, paste
jewel, copper, 3.8 cm., I

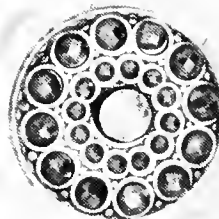
5. France, 19th century. Shell
engraved, paint, 3.1 cm., I

6. Europe, 19th century. Shell
(pierced), 3.2 cm., III

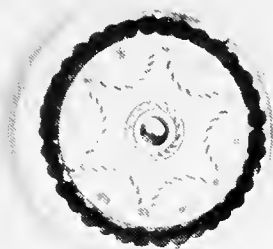
7. France, 19th century. Shell
3.8 cm., I

8. France, possibly 18th century
Shell, copper, 3.5 cm., I

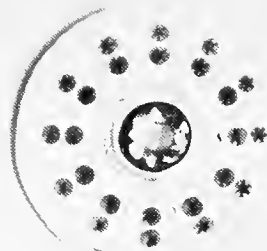
9a, b. Europe, 19th century
Shell, engraved, 3.8 cm., III



16



3



4



10



11



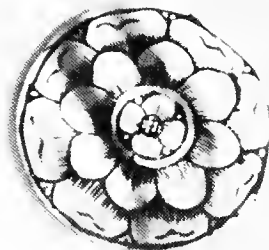
12



7



14



15

10. France, 19th century. Shell, engraved, paint, 3.8 cm., 1

11. France, 19th century. Shell, copper, 3.2 cm., 1

12. France, 19th century. Engraved shell, copper, tin, 3.6 cm., 1

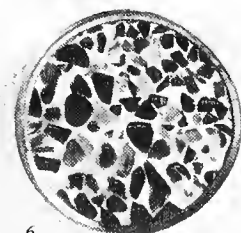
13. France, 19th century. Shell, steel, copper, 4 cm., 1

14. France, 19th century. Shell, paint, 3.3 cm., 1

15. France, 19th century. Shell, and copper, 3.4 cm., 1

16. France, 19th century. Shell, steel, glass, and copper, 3.6 cm., 1

Enamel and Stone



5. Europe, late 19th century
Enamel, gilded metal, shell
3.5 cm., XIII

6. Europe or United States, 19th
century. Composition stone
3.1 cm., I

7. Italy, 19th century. Carved lava
metal, 3.2 cm., I

8. United States, late 19th century
Enamel on metal, 3 cm., IX

9. Europe, 19th century
Enamel on metal, 3 cm., III

10a, b. Europe, 19th century
Enamel on metal, garnets
2.5 x 3 cm., I

11a, b. France, 19th century
Agate, 2.3 cm., I

1. France, 19th century. Enamel on
metal, 3.8 cm., I

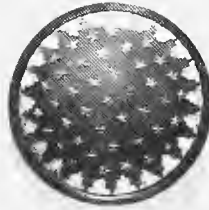
2a, b. United States, 19th century
Nephrite, brass, steel, 4 cm., I

3. United States, 19th century
Composition stone, 4 cm., I

4. France, 19th century
Enamel on brass, 4.2 cm., I

Buttons

Probably France, 19th century. Enamel and metal foil, 3.3 cm., 1



Germany ranked second in number of workers. In addition to her active home market, she furnished great quantities of cheap buttons to England, Russia, Spain, Italy, and the United States.

In England, Birmingham was the leading producer of buttons, and made a particularly large number in shell. This position of prominence was challenged only by the button-makers of Vienna. The East Indies, Manila, the Bay of Panama, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf were the main sources of supply of the raw shells, and the industry thus necessitated an active international trade. Not all British buttons were of shell; any Dickens reader will recall the large buttons of brass or horn which men wore on their Pickwick coats in the late 1830s. Indeed, quantities of covered buttons and others of metal, nut, and hoof were also made in Birmingham. Notable types of buttons from other parts of Europe were engraved silver ones made in the Netherlands, silver filigree buttons

fashioned in Spain, miniature mosaics from Italy, and glass buttons from Bohemia.

The nineteenth century marked the establishment and growth of several branches of button manufacture in the United States. The worn-out kettles of the New England rum distilleries and the discarded sheathing from the shipyards were valuable sources of copper that were alloyed with imported zinc to produce brass. The brass was converted into sheets before being stamped into buttons. Waterbury became the leading center for this process.

Glass



1a



1b



1c



1d



3a



3b



6a

1a, b, c, d. United States, early 20th century. Glass, 1.2 cm. to 1.5 cm., X, V

2. Millville, New Jersey, 1942. Made by Winfield Rutter. Glass, 1.2 cm., XVI

3a, b. United States, early 20th century. Glass, 2.3 cm., X

4a, b. France or England, early 19th century. Glass, composition, metal, 3.7 cm., III

5a, b. France or England, early 19th century. Glass, composition, metal 2.2 cm., III

6a, b. Italy, 19th century. Glass mosaic, metal 2.5 cm., III

7a, b, c, d. Italy, 19th century. Glass mosaic, malachite, gold 1.8 cm., III

8. France, 19th century. Glass, gilding 2.8 cm., I

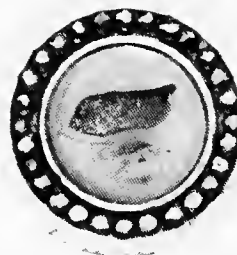
9. Pressberg, Czechoslovakia, about 1930. Glass; made for Mambocher 2.9 cm., VIII

10. France, 19th century. Glass, shell, 3.8 cm., I

11. United States, 1900-1910. Glass, metal, 3.5 cm., VII

12. France, 19th century, Paste jewels, steel, 2.7 cm., I

13. Possibly England, early 19th century. Glass, composition, metal 3.6 cm., III



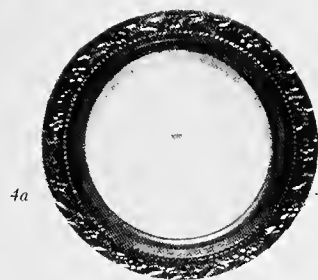
10



11



2



4a



4b



5a



5b



5b



7a



7b



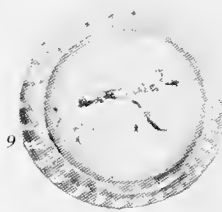
7c



7d



8



9



12



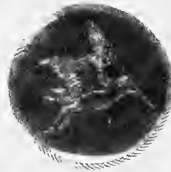
13

Buttons

*United States, early 20th century
Brass, 6 cm., III*



*England, 19th century. Silver, engraved
2.6 cm., III*



As early as 1802 the firm of Abel Porter and Company was formed, engaging thirteen men in making gilded buttons from sheet brass. With the declaration of war in 1812 Aaron Benedict of Waterbury foresaw the demand for military buttons of brass. He forthwith bought all the old brass wares he could find, and when his supply of brass was gone he resorted to pewter. His success eventually led to the establishment of a large organization which became the Waterbury Button Company.

In 1816, Abel Porter and Company became Leavenworth, Hayden and Scovill, and continued to make buttons of naively high quality until 1821, when Jonas Craft, an immigrant, revealed to them a British method of making three-pence worth of gold go as far as a dollar's worth. In 1868, the Scovill Manufacturing Company produced 1500 gross of brass buttons daily. Among the interesting designs struck here were buttons with the portrait of George Washington, a set of which was given to the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824, buttons for the projected Texas Navy, for the Pony Express, and for trainmen of the "iron horse" era. Other localities which became prominent for their metal buttons were Attleboro and Haydenville, Massachusetts.

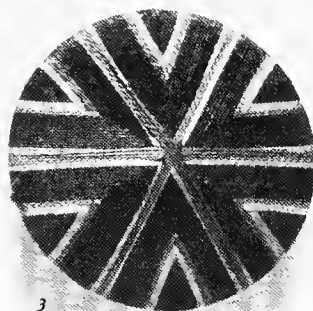
*Holland, 19th century. Porcelain, enamel
decoration, shell, brass, 3.5 cm., I*



Fabric



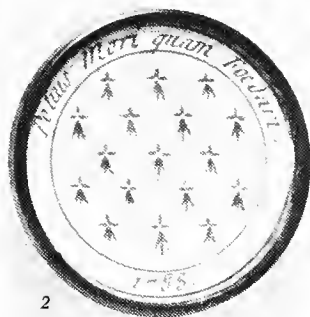
1



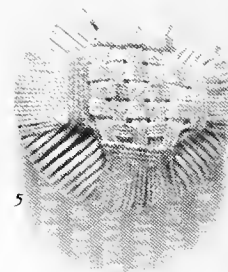
3



4



2



5

1. Europe, 19th century
Silk, 3.4 cm., V

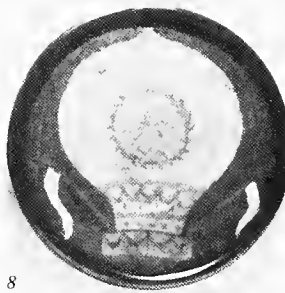
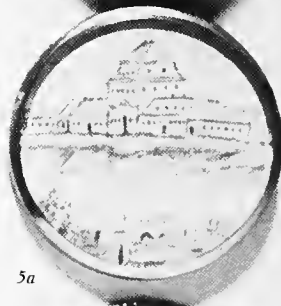
2. Europe, late 18th-early 19th century. Fabric, metal, glass
3.5 cm., III

3. Europe or United States, late 19th-early 20th century. Silk, 4 cm., XVII

4. Europe, 19th century
Silk, metallic thread, 2.9 cm., III

5. Europe, late 19th-early 20th century. Silk and cotton, 2.5 cm., V

Painted, Engraved and Pictorial





1a, b. France, late 18th-early 19th century. Painted ivory or parchment, glass, metal, 3.7 cm., III

2. France, 19th century. Porcelain enamel decoration, 3.5 cm., I

3a, b, c, d. France, 18th century. Painted ivory, glass, metal 3.5 cm., III

4a, b. Europe, late 18th-early 19th century. Painted ivory, glass, metal 3.6 cm., III

5a, b, c. France, 18th century. Silverpoint drawing on paper, glass metal, 3.6 cm., III

6a, b. France, late 18th century. Painted ivory, glass, metal 3.7 cm., III

7a, b. France, late 18th century. Cut paper, silk, glass, copper, 3.5 cm., IV

8. Europe, late 18th-early 19th century. Painted paper, metal 3.8 cm., III

9a, b. France, early 19th century. Painted glass, copper, 3.5 cm., III

10. France, late 18th-early 19th century. Painted paper, glass, metal 3.6 cm., XVII

11. Europe, late 18th-early 19th century. Painted ivory, glass, metal 3.7 cm., III

12. France, late 18th-early 19th century. Glass, reverse-painted, metal 3.7 cm., III

13. Europe, early 19th century. Porcelain, enamel decoration, gilding, 4.2 cm., III

Buttons

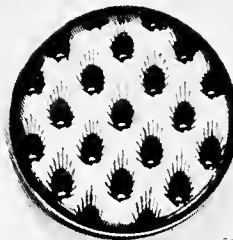
*Frank Reuss Kelly, Norwalk, Connecticut
about 1940. Earthenware, 2.8 cm., VI*



*Probably England, about 1870. Porcelain
enamel decoration, 1 cm. to 2.9 cm., XVIII*



*France, 19th century. Metallic foils, copper,
brass, glass, 3.7 cm., I*



In 1855 the manufacture of shell buttons was introduced into the United States. Soon vast quantities of mother-of-pearl were imported from China, Australia, and the South Sea Islands. A new note was sounded in 1891 when J. F. Boepple recognized the potential value of the fresh water mussels at Muscatine, Iowa. By the turn of the century the annual production of fresh water shell buttons stood at 4,759,671 gross, and button factories dotted the banks of the Mississippi from Goodhue County, Minnesota, to Pike County, Missouri.

In 1859 a new material of vegetable origin made its appearance. This was the nut of the corozo palm (genus *Acrocomia*) of Ecuador, Colombia, and Panama. Its commercial name, vegetable ivory, suggests its color and texture. It is



strong, readily worked, and easily dyed. For decades, this material was used for buttons on the more expensive grades of suits and overcoats.

The trend away from natural materials made itself felt as early as the 1770s, when papier-mâché was used. This was followed by hard rubber, of which buttons were made for the Army and Navy from 1851 to 1869, and for civilian wear as well. In Newark, New Jersey, the brothers J. W. and I. S. Hyatt invented celluloid in 1869. This was the first of the chemical blendings of unexpected substances that form a material totally different in appearance from any of their ingredients. In the long list of modern plastics an important place in the button field is held by those made of cotton treated with acids and camphor, of carbolic acid and formaldehyde, of furfural, urea, and the casein of milk.

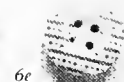
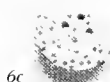
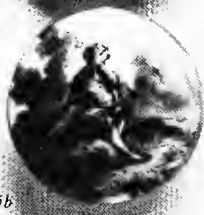
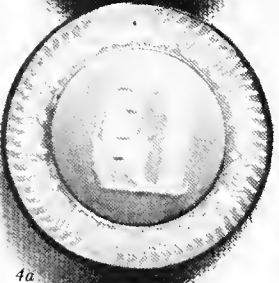
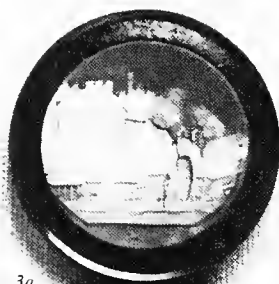
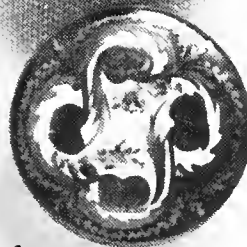
What future is there for buttons? People who know the industry say that, in spite of the slide fastener and other devices which have replaced buttons to some degree, the industry will continue to grow and to improve. Buttons, freed again for decorative use, are beginning to attract the attention of designers capable of expressing the nature of the newer materials. Perhaps they will enjoy a second golden age.

This publication salutes those who enjoy the historical and aesthetic allure of buttons. Although button collectors are legion, their pursuit need not be formal, methodical, or even habit-forming. Still one of the simplest amenities of modern life, the ubiquitous button box is the mark of a well-run household. Thus well entrenched, the button need never yield to the upstart slide fastener. Who ever heard of a family zipper box?

Carl C. Dauterman



Ceramic

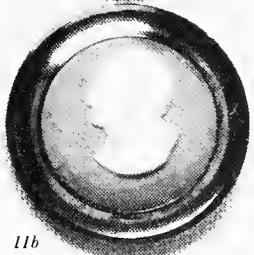




9b



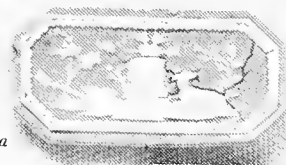
11a



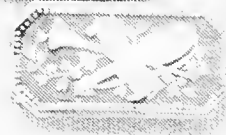
11b



13



12a



12b



10a



10b

1. Europe or United States, 19th century. Porcelain, enamel decoration gilding, 3.3 cm., III

2. Europe or United States, 19th century. Porcelain, enamel decoration, gilding, 3.3 cm., III

3a, b. England, late 18th-early 19th century. Jasperware, glass, metal 3.6 cm., III

4a, b. Probably England, early 19th century. Jasperware, shell, silver 3.6 cm., III

5a, b. Europe, 19th century. Porcelain, enamel decoration 2.6 cm., I

6a, b, c, d, e. Probably England, about 1870. Porcelain, enamel decoration, 1 cm. to 2.9 cm., XVIII

7a, b. Hungary, about 1940. Earthenware, 2.6 cm., 2.8 cm., II

8. Frank Reuss Kelly, Norwalk, Connecticut, about 1940. Earthenware, 2.8 cm., VI

9a, b. England, late 18th-early 19th century. Jasperware, 1.5 cm., 2.5 cm., I

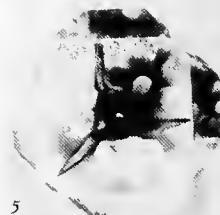
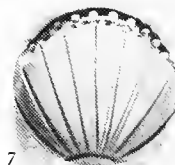
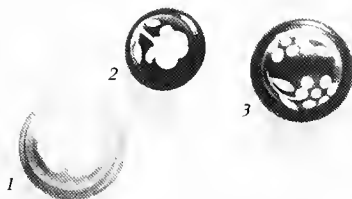
10a, b. England, late 18th-early 19th century. Jasperware, paste silver, 3.5 cm., III

11a, b. England, late 18th century. Jasperware, copper, 3.3 cm., XIV

12a, b. England, late 18th-early 19th century. Jasperware 1.9 x 3.6 cm., 1.5 x 3 cm., I

13. England, 19th century. Jasperware, copper, steel 3.7 cm., III

Plastic



502001

1. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 1.7 cm., V

2. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 1 cm., V

3. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 1.5 cm., V

4. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 1.1 cm., V

5. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 3 cm., V

6. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 1.9 cm., V

7. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 2.5 cm., V

8. Probably United States, 20th century, Plastic and foil, 2 cm., V

9. Europe or United States, 20th century, Molded and cut plastic, 2.9 cm., V

10. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic and foil, 2.2 cm., V

11a, b. Probably United States, 20th century, Molded translucent plastic, 2.3 cm., V

12. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 1.8 cm., V

13. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 2.7 x 2.3 cm., V

14. Europe or United States, 20th century, Plastic, 3 cm., V

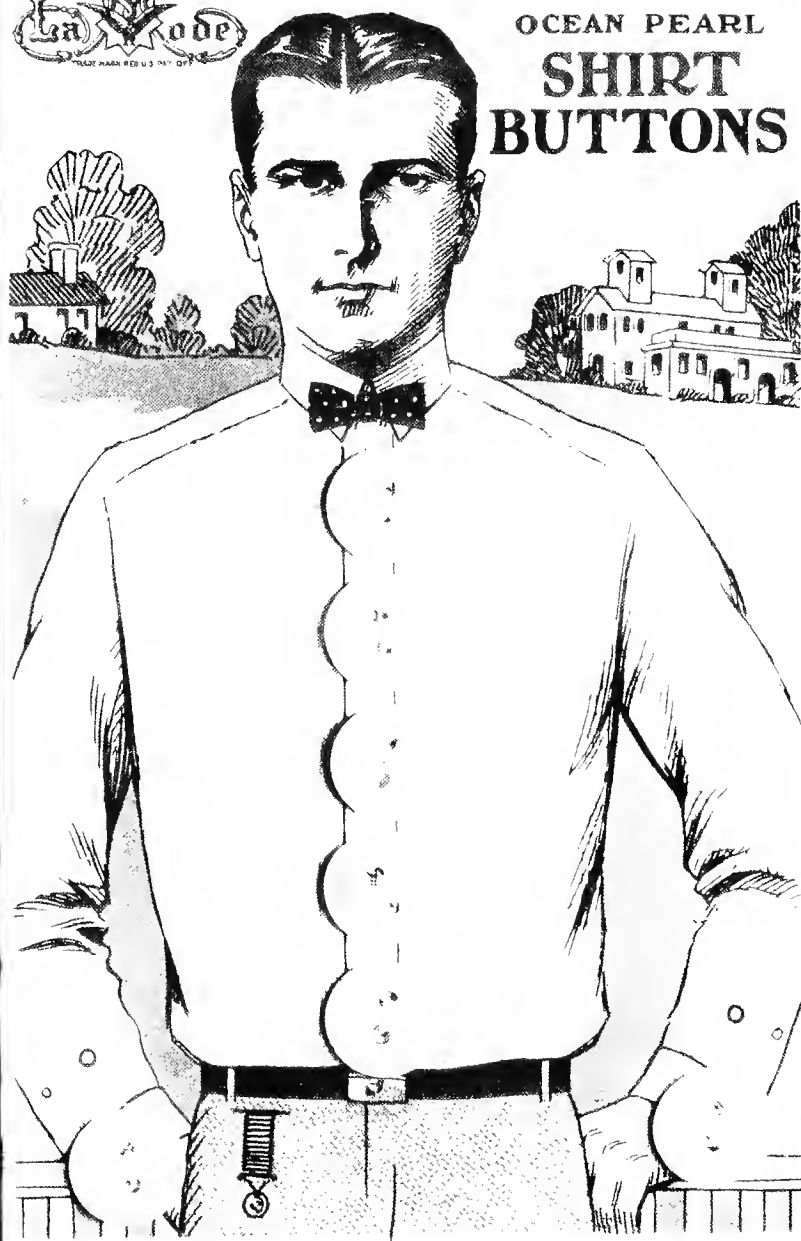


13

14



OCEAN PEARL SHIRT BUTTONS



Display card of pearl buttons.
United States, 20th century. Pearl
paper 12 cm. (height) Cooper-
Hewitt Museum Picture Library

Selected Bibliography

General

- Adams, Jane Ford. *A Complete Classification of Black Glass Buttons*. Washington, D.C.: National Button Society, 1963. *A Complete Classification of Clear and Colored Glass Buttons*. Washington, D.C.: National Button Society, c. 1964.
- Adkins, Gertrude Dullard and Dorothy Foster Brown. *Price Guide to Button Parade*. Des Moines, Iowa: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1970.
- Albert, Lillian Smith. *A Button Collector's Journal*. Hightstown, N.J.: 1941. *A Button Collector's Second Journal*. Yardley, Pa.: The Cook Printers, 1941.
- Albert, Lillian Smith and Kathryn Kent (pseud.). *The Complete Button Book*. With a foreword by Carl W. Drepperd. 1st ed. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1949.
- Brown, Dorothy Foster. *Button Parade; a book of groupings drawn and described by Dorothy Foster Brown*. 4th new enlarged and revised ed. Des Moines, Iowa: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., c. 1968. *Button Review*. Monthly. St. Paul, Minn.
- Casebolt, Florence Waye. *Button Gardens and Diminutive Arrangements*. Berkeley, Cal.: Button Garden Studio, 1952.
- Cassidy, Ethel Bugbee. *Little Buttons*. Wellington, O.: Wellington Printing Co., 1943.
- Chamberlin, Erwin and Minerva Miner. *Button Heritage*. Shelbourne, N.Y.: F.E. Faulkner Printing Co., 1967.
- Il bottone italiano nel mondo, Piacenza, 24 Aprile, 1971*. Conference of 24 April, 1971. Piacenza, 1971.
- Crouse, L. Erwina (Blanchard), and Marguerite Maple. *Button Classics*. Chicago: Lightner Publishing Co., c. 1941.
- Crummett, Polly De Steiguer. *Button Collecting*. Chicago: Lightner Publishing Co., 1939.
- Crummett, Polly De Steiguer and P.S. Freeman. *Button Guide Book No. 1: Their Manufacture, Use on Costumes, and Collectible Types*. Watkins Glen, N.Y.: American Life Foundation; sold and distributed by Century House, c. 1969.
- Epstein, Diana. *Buttons* (Collectors' Blue Book Series). New York: Walker & Co., 1968.
- Ertell, Sally C. *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Buttons*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1967.
- Ertell, Viviane Beck. *The Colorful World of Buttons*. Princeton: The Pyne Press, c. 1973.
- Freeman, P.S. *Button Guide Book No. 2*. Watkins Glen, New York: American Life Foundation; sold and distributed by Century House, 1972.
- Hake, Theodore L. *The Button Book; an illustrated price guide to 5,000 pinback buttons issued from 1896-1972, including listings of buttons used as sets*. New York: Dafran House, 1972.
- Hobbies: The Magazine for Collectors*. Chicago: Lightner Publishing Co., 1931.
- Houart, Victor. *Buttons: A Collector's Guide*. New York: Scribner, c. 1977.
- Hostest, Walter. *Ludenscheid und die Knöpfe*. Ludenscheid Germany: Kommissions-Verlag R. Beucker, 1961.
- Jarvis, Louis Huntington. *Buttons Are Art*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wobbema & Son, 1945 (?).
- Jones, Nora Owens and Edith Mattison Fuoss. *Black Glass Buttons*. Ypsilanti, Mich.: University Lithoprinters, 1945.
- Just Buttons; Magazine for Button Collectors*. Hartford, Ct., c. 1948.
- Lamm, Ruth, and others. *Guidelines for Collecting China Buttons*. Drawings by Charles Lamm and Lester Lorah. Photographs by Alphaeus H. Albert. Hightstown, N.J.: National Button Society of America, 1970.
- Luscomb, Sally C. *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Buttons*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1967.
- Luscomb, Sally C. and Ethel Cassidy. *The Old Button Box*. Southington, Ct., 1951.
- National Button Society. *National Button Bulletin*. Springfield, Mass. Title varies: 1942-46, *Quarterly Bulletin*; Jan. 1947, *The Button Bulletin*. *National Button Society Year Book*. Published for the membership only.
- Newsome, Arden J. *Button Collecting and Crafting*. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard., c. 1976.
- Nicholls, Florence Zacharie Ellis. *Button Hand Book: Comparative Values, Serial Numbers*. Ithaca, N.Y.: The Cayuga Press, Inc., 1943; supplements, 1944, 1945.

Olson, Lorraine. *Old Buttons and Their Values*. Chicago: Lightner Publishing Co., c. 1940.

Parkyn, Harry Gordon. *Shoulder-belt Plates and Buttons*. Aldershot, England: Gale & Polden, 1965.

Peacock, Primrose. *Discovering Old Buttons*. (Discovering series, no. 213) Aylesbury, England: Shire Publications, 1978.

Prague, Waldes Museum. *Knopfmuseum Waldes (Sammlung von Kleiderverschlüssen)*. Prague-Vrsovice, 1918.

Roberts, Catherine Christopher. *Who's Got the Button? Old and New Angles to Button Collecting*. New York: McKay, 1962.

Schiff, Stefan O. *Buttons: Art in Miniature*. (Lancaster-Miller Art Series). Berkeley, California: Lancaster-Miller, 1979.

Shull, Thelma. *The Button String*. Chicago: Lightner Publishing Co., 1942.

Squire, Gwen. *Buttons, a Guide for Collectors*. London: Frederick Muller, Ltd., 1972.

Swenson, Evelyn. *Picture Buttons of the Past*. Stratford, Connecticut: New England Publishing Co., 1978.

History

Albert, Alphaeus Homer. *Buttons of the Confederacy: a description and illustrated catalog of the buttons worn by the troops of the Confederates [sic.] States of America, 1861-65*. 1st ed. Hightstown, N.J., 1963.

Albert, Alphaeus Homer. *Political Campaign and Commemorative Buttons; an illustrated catalog with descriptions of the buttons used during the various political campaigns, including the Washington inaugural buttons and other commemorative and patriotic buttons*. 1st ed. Hightstown, N.J., 1966.

Albert, Alphaeus Homer. *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons, with supplement, 1775-1973*. Boyerstown, Pa.: Boyerstown Publishing Co., 1973.

Albert, Alphaeus Homer. *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons, 1775-1976, Bicentennial ed.* Hightstown, N.J., c. 1977.

Albert, Alphaeus Homer. *Washington Historical Buttons, and Other Buttons Having The Portrait of Washington or Alluding to Him and His Administration*. With foreword by Edward H. Davis. 1st ed. Hightstown, N.J., 1949.

Davis, Edward H. *The Lafayette Presentation Button, 1824*. Waterbury, Ct.: Mattatuck Historical Society, 1951.

Ford, Grace (Horney). *The Button Collectors' History; with drawings by Caroline Ford Brown and Sally Bryan Ford*. Springfield, Mass.: Pond-Ekberg Co., 1943.

Hake, Theodore L. *Encyclopedia of Political Buttons, United States, 1896-1972; including prices, campaign history, technical facts and statistics*. New York: Dafran House, c. 1974.

Political Buttons, Book II: 1920-1976. York, Pennsylvania, Americana and Collectibles Press, 1977.

Political buttons, Book III: 1789-1916. York, Pennsylvania, Americana and Collectibles Press, 1978.

Jenkins, Dan L. *Military Buttons of the Gulf Coast, 1711-1830*. Mobile, Ala.: Museum of the City of Mobile, 1973.

Manufacture

The Complete Checklist of American Button Makers, Manufacturers & Outfitters, 1710-1976. Stratford, Ct.: New England Publishing Co., 1977.

Bruggemann, Magda. *Contabilidad para fábricas de botones*. Mexico City, 1952.

Congresso internazionale sui problemi dell'industria dei bottoni e offini, Piacenza, 1972. Piacenza: Tip. M. Pignocca, 1972.

Jones, William Unite. *The Button Industry*. Morris, Ct.: Robert Shuhi, 1979. Reprint of edition first published in London in 1924 by Pitman.

Schnutt, F. *Manuel du fabricant de boutons et peignes, articles en celuloid et en galalithe*. Paris: J. Bailliere, 1923.

Johnson, David F. *The American Historical Buttons*. New Market, N.J., 1942.

Johnson, David Funston. *Uniform Buttons; American Armed Forces, 1784-1948*. Watkins Glen, N.Y.: Century House, 1948.

McGuinn, William F. *American Military Button Makers and Suppliers: Their Backmarks and Dates*. 1st ed. McLean (?) Va.: McGuinn, c. 1978.

Parent, Albert L. *Le bouton à travers les ages*. With preface by Henry Clouzot. Paris, c. 1935.

Prague, Waldes Museum. *Le bouton à travers les siècles programme; compte rendu de l'ouverture du musée du 25 septembre 1918*. Prague-Vrsovice: Musée Waldes, 1920.

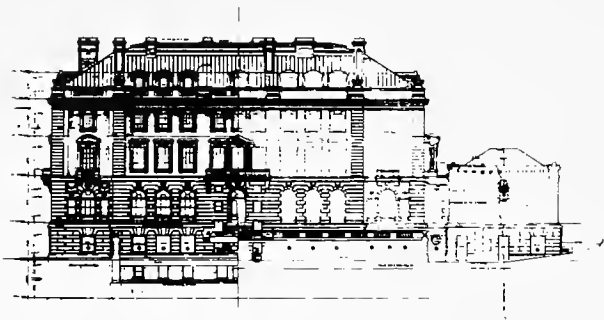
Peacock, Primrose. *Antique buttons: Their History and How to Collect Them*. New York: Drake Publishers, 1972.

Vickers-Smith, Evelyn. *Uniform Buttons: Enfield Arsenal Manual*. Washington, D.C., Enfield Arsenal, 1965.

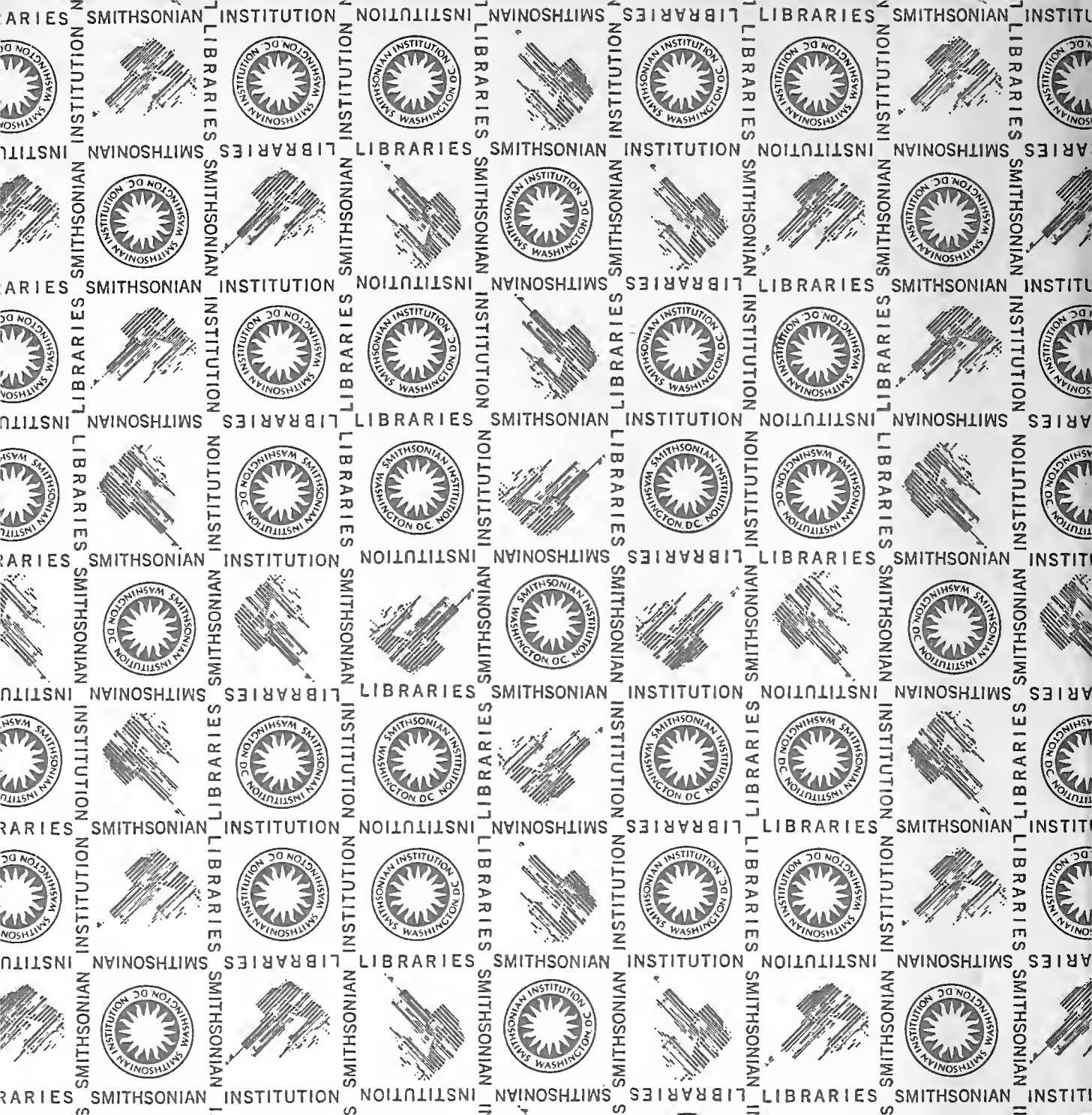
Donor Code

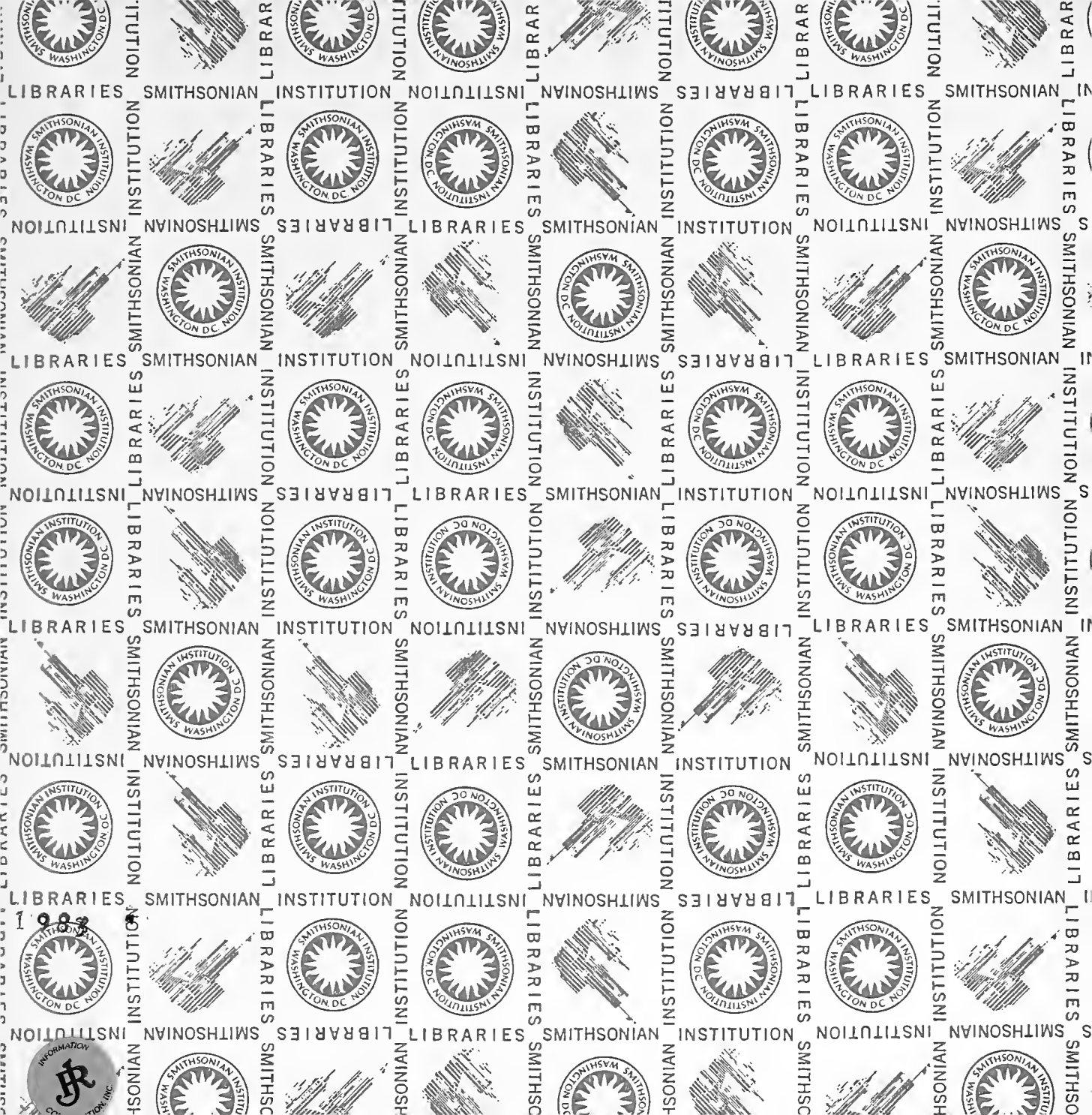
I:	Gift of Sarah and Eleanor Hewitt
II:	Gift of William Heimann
III:	Gift of Julia Hutchins Wolcott
IV:	Bequest of Sarah Cooper Hewitt
V:	Gift of Lillian Smith Albert
VI:	Purchased in memory of Sarah and Eleanor Hewitt
VII:	Gift of Mrs. William Bamberger
VIII:	Gift of Janet Flanner
IX:	Gift of Norvin Hewitt Green
X:	Gift of Mrs. Alphaeus Albert
XI:	Gift of Marian Hague
XII:	Gift of Abram M. Blumberg
XIII:	Gift of Grace Lincoln
XIV:	Gift of Mrs. J. Woodward Haven
XV:	Gift of R. Keith Kane from the Estate of Mrs. Robert B. Noyes
XVI:	Gift of Mrs. Gertrude Howell Patterson
XVII:	Gift of Susan Bliss
XVIII:	Gift of Serbella Moores
XIX:	Anonymous gift

Cooper-Hewitt Museum



2 East 91st Street
New York NY 10028





SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES



3 9088 00314085 2

chm NK3670.C77

Buttons in the collection of the Cooper-